

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/736,065	GUYETTE, THOMAS MICHAEL	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Qing Chen	2191	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on October 15, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

Art Unit: 2191

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office action is in response to the RCE filed on October 15, 2007.
2. **Claim 1** is pending.
3. **Claim 1** has been amended.
4. **Claims 2-23** have been cancelled.
5. **Claim 1** is allowed.
6. The 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claim 1 is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the claim.

***Examiner's Amendment***

7. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee:

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Dagg (Reg. No. 37,809) on December 17, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 21-23 and amend Claim 1 as follows:

Art Unit: 2191

1. (currently amended) A method for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, comprising:

inputting a plurality of questions, wherein said plurality of questions reflect a system design of said software system under development, and wherein said plurality of questions include questions regarding whether a configuration value associated with a component of said software system under development is the same for all users of said software system under development;

generating a category array in response to said plurality of questions, wherein each element in said category array corresponds to a unique set of answers to said plurality of questions, and wherein each element in said category array contains a corresponding one of a plurality of design guidelines, each of said plurality of design guidelines indicating a name of a corresponding one of a plurality of data stores, wherein a first one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a first unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development and the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, ~~and~~ wherein a second one of said elements of said category array corresponds to a second unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is not the same for all users of said software system under development and not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, wherein a third one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a third unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development and not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, and wherein a fourth one of

Art Unit: 2191

said elements in said category array corresponds to a fourth unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is not the same for all users of said software system under development and the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed;

inputting an operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development, wherein said operational characteristic is said configuration value associated with said component of said software system under development;

displaying said plurality of questions to at least one of said developers of said software system under development;

inputting answers to said plurality of questions from said at least one of said developers of said software system under development;

locating, responsive to said input answers and said category array, one of said plurality of design guidelines related to said operational characteristic, wherein said located one of said plurality of design guidelines is a name of a data store to be used to store said operational characteristic in said software system under development; and

displaying said name of said data store to be used to store said operational characteristic to said at least one of said developers of said software system under development.

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

Art Unit: 2191

23. (cancelled)

-- END OF AMENDMENT --

*Reasons for Allowance*

8. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fail to teach, in combination with the other claimed limitations, "wherein a first one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a first unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development and the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, wherein a second one of said elements of said category array corresponds to a second unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is not the same for all users of said software system under development and not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, wherein a third one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a third unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development and not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, and wherein a fourth one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a fourth unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is not the same for all users of said software system under development and the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed" as recited in independent Claim 1.

Art Unit: 2191

The closest cited prior art, the combination of US 5,960,419 (hereinafter “Fagg”) and US 5,644,686 (hereinafter “Hekmatpour”), teaches an authoring method and apparatus for creating an application for a decision management system such as a document assembly system.

However, the combination of Fagg and Hekmatpour fails to teach “wherein a first one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a first unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development and the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, wherein a second one of said elements of said category array corresponds to a second unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is not the same for all users of said software system under development and not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, wherein a third one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a third unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development and not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, and wherein a fourth one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a fourth unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is not the same for all users of said software system under development and the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed” as recited in independent Claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Art Unit: 2191

***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Qing Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-1071. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen, can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

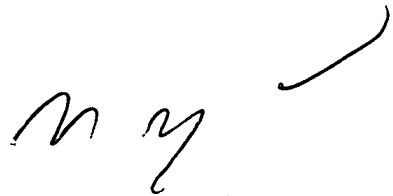
Application/Control Number: 10/736,065

Page 8

Art Unit: 2191

QC

December 17, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WZ' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

**WEI ZHEN**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**